

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INR-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2722

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, UNSC, KS, KN

SUBJ: REPUBLIC OF KOREA INITIATIVES FOR UPCOMING UNGA

REF: USUN 2695

1. SUMMARY: CLEARLY UNDER SEOUL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CONVENE CORE GROUP, ROK CHAIRMAN AHN ON AUGUST 24 HAS CALLED "VERY BRIEF" CORE GROUP MEETING FOR 11:30 A.M. AUGUST 26 TO BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON. ON AUGUST 23, IN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE CORE GROUP MEETING WITH US MISOFF, AHN CLEARLY INTENDED TO RAISE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION IN CORE GROUP. MISOFF THEN OUTLINED SOME THOUGHTS TO AHN SUGGESTING DESIRABILITY OF VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY ROK AS TO STRATEGY BEST SUITED AT PRESENT FOR PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP GOAL. AHN EVIDENTLY HAS GIVEN THESE SOME WEIGHT BECAUSE IN ANNOUNCING AUGUST 26 MEETING HE SAID AGENDA WOULD BE LIMITED TO HIS REPORT OF NORTH KOREAN DECISION NOT TO SEEK INSCRIPTION OF ITEM ON UNGA AGENDA AND HIS EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO CORE GROUP MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT. UK MISSION HAS SUBSEQUENTLY UNDERLINED TO US LONDON'S DESIRE FOR MAXIMUM DISCRETION IN AVOIDING ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE UNDESIRABLE NORTH
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KOREAN REACTIONS. ACCORDINGLY, UK MISSION SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS FROM HEADQUARTERS. WE BELIEVE THAT GIVEN BREVITY OF AGENDA IT MAY BE WORTHWHILE TO SUGGEST COMBINATION OF MEETING AND LUNCHEON. END SUMMARY

2. ON AUGUST 23, ROK MINISTER AHN ASKED TO SEE MISOFF. AHN MADE CLEAR THAT SEOUL WANTED CORE GROUP MEETING. AHN

SUGGESTED THAT MEETING MIGHT FOCUS ON REASONS BEHIND NORTH KOREA'S DECISION NOT TO SEEK INSCRIPTION OF UNGA ITEM, AHN ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ANNOUNCE PLANS TO CIRCULATE MEMBERSHIP MEMORANDUM AND WOULD INVITE CORE GROUP MEMBERS TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF ROK UN MEMBERSHIP IN COURSE OF GENERAL DEBATE.

3. IN REPLYING, MISOFF SAID THAT ATMOSPHERE NOW APPEARED TO HAVE BECOME MORE FAVORABLE FOR ROK TO DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP CANDIDACY. MISOFF SUGGESTED, THOUGH, THAT STRATEGY FOR PROCEEDING TOWARD MEMBERSHIP GOAL COULD BE HIGHLY IMPORTANT. FOR INSTANCE, IF ROK WERE TO CIRCULATE MEMBERSHIP MEMORANDUM HASTILY THIS COULD RESULT IN NORTH KOREAN CAMPAIGN TO RALLY AS MUCH PUBLIC EXPRESSION AS POSSIBLE (INCLUDING GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS BY OTHERS) OPPOSING ROK MEMBERSHIP. THUS WITH STATES ON RECENT RECORD OF OPPOSING ROK MEMBERSHIP, ROK COULD FACE MORE PROLONGED TASK IN PROMOTING LEVELS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH COULD RESULT IN BROADER ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT FOR ROK MEMBERSHIP.

4. ADDITIONALLY, MISOFF SUGGESTED THAT INVITATION TO CORE GROUP MEMBERS FOR GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS SUPPORTING ROK MEMBERSHIP MIGHT NOT PROVE AS SATISFACTORY AS BILATERAL APPROACHES TO THEM, SINCE IT CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME CORE GROUP MEMBERS MIGHT CONSIDER IT UNWISE AT THIS POINT TO PUT STRONG EMPHASIS ON MEMBERSHIP

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IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

5. FURTHERMORE, MISOFF POINTED OUT THAT LEAKS THAT CORE GROUP WAS ADDRESSING MEMBERSHIP QUESTION COULD ALSO LEAD TO EFFORTS BY OTHER SIDE TO RALLY OPPOSITION IN GENERAL DEBATE THUS SPOILING TO A DEGREE THE MORE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE EVIDENTLY EXISTING FOR PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT OF ROK'S BILATERAL RELATIONS.

6. AHN AND HIS COLLEAGUE COUNSELOR LEE TOOK NOTE OF THIS AND AGREED THAT A CORE GROUP MEETING TO DISCUSS MEMBERSHIP TACTICS MIGHT BETTER WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER ROK HAD WEIGHED ALL ASPECTS OF ROUTE IT SHOULD BEST TAKE IN PURSUIT OF UN MEMBERSHIP. IN THIS CONNECTION, AHN AND LEE NOTED THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF CHINESE AND SOVIET ATTITUDES AND SAID THEY HOPED THE US WOULD TRY TO INFLUENCE THESE FAVORABLE.

7. LEE THEN ASKED "CHAIRMAN" AHN HOW HE PROPOSED TO COPE WITH SEOUL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO CONVENE A CORE GROUP MEETING. THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUBSTITUTING A WORKING-LEVEL LUNCHEON AT WHICH AHN COULD THANK THE MEMBERS

FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

8. ON APRIL 24, AHN TELEPHONED MISOFF THAT HE HAD ARRANGED FOR A VERY BRIEF WORKING-LEVEL MEETING OF CORE GROUP AT BELGIUM'S MISSION ON AUGUST 26 AT 11:30 A.M., TO BE FOLLOWED BY A LUNCHEON. AGENDA FOR MEETING WOULD BE AHN'S REPORT OF NORTH KOREA'S DECISION NOT TO SEEK INSCRIPTION OF AN ITEM AND AHN'S EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO CORE GROUP MEMBERS. AHN ADDED THAT MATTER OF STRATEGY TO FOLLOW IN PURSUIT OF UN MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE CAREFULLY STUDIED.

9. COMMENT: ROK OBSERVER OFFICE EVIDENTLY UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO CONVENE CORE GROUP MEETING. IN THIS REGARD ONE COULD GATHER A DESIRE NOT TO LET ROK INTERESTS BE FORGOTTEN, MISOFF
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SENSING THIS UNDERLINED SECRETARY VANCE'S ADDRESS OF JUNE 29 TO ASIA SOCIETY, AS EVIDENCE OF US SUPPORT FOR ROK INTERESTS. FOLLOWING AHN'S CALL FOR AUGUST 26 MEETING, UK MISOFF UNDERLINED TO US LONDON'S WISH FOR MAXIMUM DISCRETION IN AVOIDING ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT PROVOKE UNDESIRABLE NORTH KOREAN REACTION. ACCORDINGLY, UK MISSION SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEADQUARTERS, WE BELIEVE THAT GIVEN BREVITY OF AGENDA IT MAY BE WORTHWHILE TO SUGGEST COMBINATION OF MEETING AND LUNCHEON.
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